

# GAME FACE

INDIANAS REBOOK MAGAZINE

**MORE THAN JUST A  
FASHION STATEMENT!**

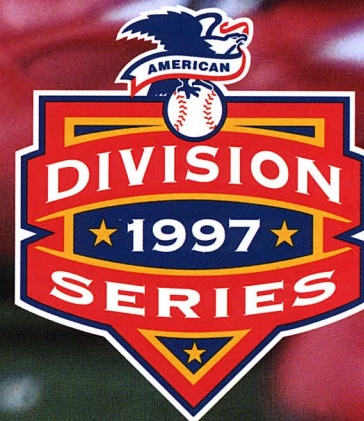


Photo credit: Gregory Drezdson, both photos

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97 CENTRAL DIVISION PROGRAM



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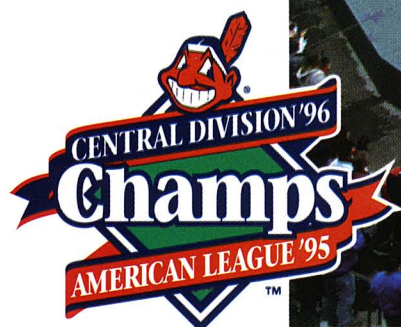


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzon



## 12 Contenders

The heat is on and these are the teams to beat.

## 36 Young Guns

by Steve Herrick The future of the Indians lies, in part, with the many young players in the Tribe's Minor League system. When injuries necessitated a few quick promotions for youngsters such as Jaret Wright and Bartolo Colon, the future became now! They're meeting the challenge and are hoping to play a large part in both the Indians of today and tomorrow.

## 46 What A Game!

by Tom Bochenek Indians players have gotten used to entering their home field amidst the roar of the crowd. They have become accustomed to looking out from the field into a sea of Tribe red and blue. The consecutive sellouts in Cleveland have proven that Indians fans are the best in baseball, and everyone knows it.

## 54 Indians Year In Review

by Jim Ingraham Take a look at some of the top moments in the Indians 1997 regular season through the eyes of beat writer Jim Ingraham.

## 64 Indians All-Time Post Season Team

by Jack DeVries Earning a spot on this All-Star squad means one thing: great performance when it counts the most! Take a look at who made our All-Time Post Season team.

## In This Issue:

1997 Cleveland Indians .....	91	Parking .....	20
Bottom Of The Ninth .....	102	Poster .....	52
Broadcasters .....	80	Radio/TV Network .....	8
Akron Aeros Schedule .....	30	Scoring Blocks.....	61
Community Relations .....	26	Scouting .....	32
Concessions .....	34	Seating Diagram .....	20
Fan Rules .....	24	Slider Fun And Games .....	100
How To Score .....	62		
KidsLand .....	8		
Minor Leagues .....	30		



## KIDSLAND SURE BRINGS OUT THE SMILES

It's been said that Jacobs Field has something for everyone, and this is particularly true for young Tribe fans. KidsLand, an area designed "just for kids," features a concession stand with a kids-only menu, kids novelty shop, and a playground full of toys, provided by Little Tikes.

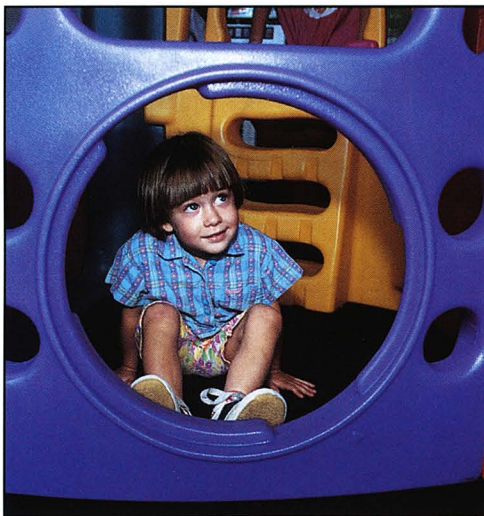
KidsLand is located at Section 117 of the Main Concourse (across from Guest Services), and is a place that is full of action during all Indians games. To enter, children must be accompanied by an adult.

While in KidsLand, children can have a snack from the kids-only menu at the KidsLand concession stand, which features peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, ice cream, and juice boxes. Kids and their parents can then head into the KidsLand novelty shop to purchase a souvenir for the day, which can include a kids-size jersey embroidered with the name of their favorite player, or one of many items featuring that loveable Indians mascot, Slider.

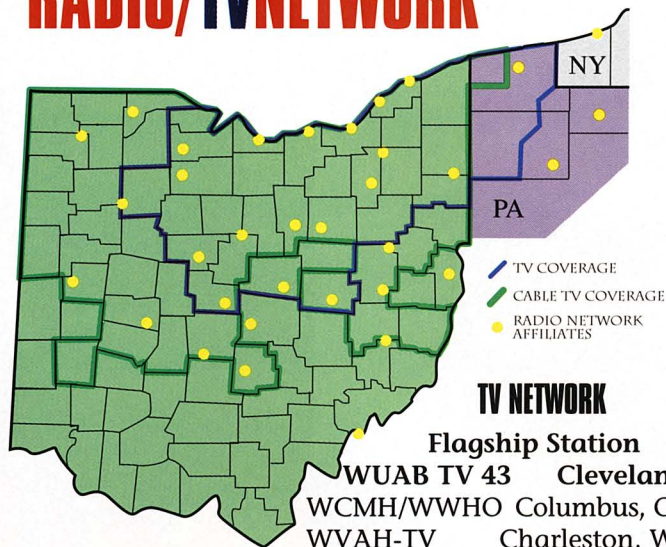
And speaking of Slider, the Indians mascot makes a stop at KidsLand during each Indians game to make some new friends.

The feature attraction at KidsLand is the playground area, which is provided by Little Tikes. The play area features eight adjustable Little Tikes Playgrounds, eight kids picnic tables, one log cabin, and an alligator and whale-shaped teeter totter. Ride-one toys include pickup trucks, cozy coupes, mini cycles, and new this year, turbo jets.

Be sure to stop by Little Tikes KidsLand while taking in a game at Jacobs Field and check out the action.



## RADIO/TV NETWORK



### TV NETWORK

#### Flagship Station

**WUAB TV 43** Cleveland  
**WCMH/WWHO** Columbus, OH  
**WVAH-TV** Charleston, WV  
**WFXP-TV** Erie, PA  
**WNYO-TV** Buffalo, NY

### RADIO NETWORK

#### Flagship Station

#### SportsRADIO WKNR 1220 AM Cleveland

#### Ohio

WAKR-AM	Akron, OH	1590
WFUN-AM	Ashtabula, OH	970
WBNV-FM	Barnesville, OH	93.5
WBLL-AM	Bellefontaine, OH	1390
WQCT-AM/ WBNO-FM	Bryan, OH	1520 /100.9
WQEL-FM	Bucyrus, OH	92.7
WHBC-AM	Canton, OH	1480
WMNI-AM	Columbus, OH	920
WDLR-AM	Delaware, OH	1550
WDOH-FM	Delphos, OH	107.1
WJER-AM	Dover, OH	1450
WEOL-AM	Elyria, OH	930
WFIN-AM	Findlay, OH	1330
WFOB-AM	Fostoria, OH	1430
WLOH-AM	Lancaster, OH	1320
WMAN-AM	Mansfield, OH	1400
WMRN-AM	Marion, OH	1490
WUCO-AM	Marysville, OH	1270
WJAW-FM	McConnellsville, OH	101.0
WMVO-AM	Mount Vernon, OH	1300
WCLT-AM	Newark, OH	1430
WLKR-FM	Norwalk, OH	95.3
WBKC-AM	Painesville, OH	1460
WLEC-AM	Sandusky, OH	1450
WCWA-AM	Toledo, OH	1230
WBTC-AM	Urichville, OH	1540
WANR-AM	Warren, OH	1570
WQKT-FM	Wooster, OH	104.5
WRTK-AM	Youngstown, OH	1390
WYBZ-FM	Zanesville, OH	107.3

#### Pennsylvania

WWCB-AM	Corry, PA	1370
WRIE-AM	Erie, PA	1260
WPIC-AM	Sharon, PA	790

#### New York

WDOE-AM	Dunkirk, NY	1410
WSPQ-AM	Springville, NY	1330





Baseball's most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, continues to make a comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message: PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

As part of the TEAM program, each Major League club reviews its alcohol policies and runs public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warns them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Cleveland Indians want you safe, because we want you back. Please drink responsibly.

In an effort to make everyone's visit to the Ballpark as safe and enjoyable as possible, a list of guidelines has been developed.

The Indians ask that you follow these guidelines, or be subject to ejection from the Ballpark, and in some cases, subject to criminal prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.

To ensure that each game is a pleasant experience for each and every guest, the Indians have established the following "Ground Rules:"

- Jacobs Field is a non-smoking facility with designated smoking areas. Non-smoking areas include: the entire seating bowl of the Ballpark (including the outdoor seating of Suites and Club Seats); KidsLand; and all public rest rooms. Smoking is permitted in the following areas: Back Yard; Patio area on the Main Concourse; all three Concourse levels (Main, Mezzanine and Upper Deck) on the East Ninth Street side of the Ballpark and Upper Deck pavilion area on the Carnegie side

of the Ballpark (all of these locations are open-air areas with picnic tables, concession stands, and rest room facilities nearby); Bleacher Concourse on Eagle Ave. side of the Ballpark. In addition, the Terrace Club and Club Lounge have both smoking and non-smoking areas. Jacobs Field has signage identifying designated smoking areas for your convenience.

- Cans, glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, thermos bottles, and squeeze bottles are not permitted into Jacobs Field.
- Due to security concerns, hard-sided coolers/containers are not permitted. Soft-sided containers and coolers are permitted.
- Food items and juice boxes are permitted inside the Ballpark, provided they are not inside a hard-sided cooler or container.
- Pets are not allowed inside the Ballpark. However, guide dogs for persons with sight disabilities are permitted.
- The resale (scalping) of Indians tickets is strictly prohibited and subject to prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.
- Fans are permitted to bring and display banners, provided they do not interfere with the game, obstruct the view of fans, or carry obscene, political or commercial messages. Banners may be hung from the facing of the Upper Deck. Poles and sticks are strictly prohibited.

- Fans may bring small umbrellas into Jacobs Field as long as they do not interfere with other fans' enjoyment of the game. Large golf umbrellas are discouraged.
- Cameras and video recorders are permitted. However, any resale of the photography or video is strictly prohibited. Team name, logos, and players' likenesses are all copyrighted material.
- Persons observed breaking the law (eg. using illegal drugs, or drinking alcohol under age) will be subject to immediate ejection and/or criminal prosecution.
- Persons using obscene or abusive language, or engaging in any other antisocial conduct offensive to those around them, will be asked by Indians personnel to cease this conduct. If the offensive conduct persists, those involved will be ejected from Jacobs Field.
- Persons entering the playing field, throwing or attempting to throw objects onto the field will be subject to immediate ejection from Jacobs Field and/or criminal prosecution.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or problems, please visit the Indians Guest Service Center, located at Section 116 of the Main Concourse and in Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, or see one of our "Hosts" throughout the Ballpark. The Indians thank you for your cooperation.

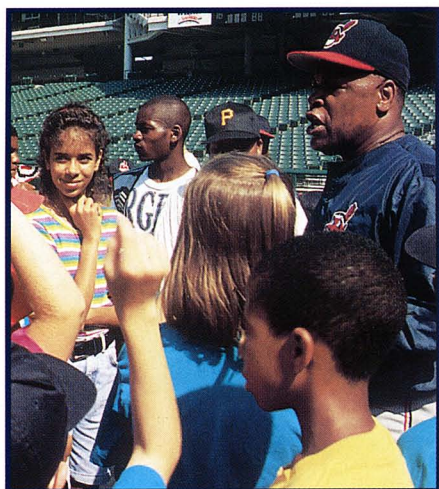
"It is our intention to make our home a safe, comfortable, family-oriented facility so every trip to Jacobs Field is most enjoyable," said Dennis Lehman, Indians Executive Vice President of Business.

"We believe these fan ground rules will ensure the intimate environment that we all seek."



Photo credit: Gregory Drezdson

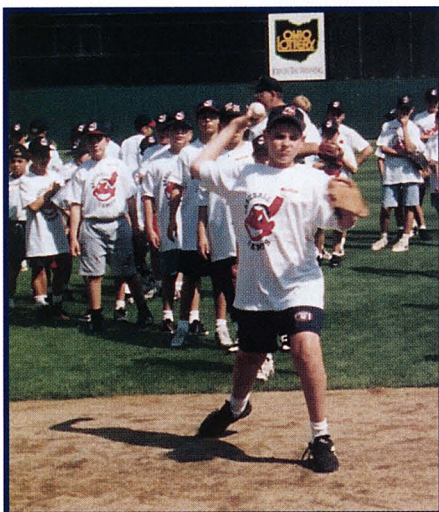




## WEEK-LONG SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Once again in 1997, the Cleveland Indians will give young athletes an opportunity to hone their baseball skills through week-long day camps. The Cleveland Indians Baseball Day Camps are three separate one-week programs offering boys and girls, ages 12 to 16, baseball skill development opportunities in an exciting setting. Locations are held in various areas of Northeast Ohio. The 1996 camps were held on the high school ball fields at Copley, Orange, and Rocky River, Ohio.

The Cleveland Indians Baseball Day Camps are highlighted by daily visits by the Tribe's Major League coaching staff. Each coach conducts a clinic on his specialty. Local college and high



school baseball coaches will also be on hand to provide expert instruction. Directed by former Indians Gold Glove outfielder and current Tribe broadcaster, Rick Manning, the camps also feature special visits by current Tribe players.

The Cleveland Indians Baseball Day Camps begin in June. For more detailed information on cost, dates, and locations, please call (216) 543-1131.

## INDIANS PARENT-CHILD CLINICS

For parents who want to spend a day of fun, excitement, and learning baseball with his or her child, the Cleveland Indians are offering three separate one-day parent-child clinics in 1997.

The Cleveland Indians Parent-Child Clinics are held at Jacobs Field beginning at 10:00am and ending at the conclusion of that day's game. There is no age limit nor specific athletic ability required. Admission is limited to 100 couples on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants receive instruction from Rick Manning and other members of the Indians coaching staff at Jacobs Field. During that time, the parent works with his or her child.

Clinic participants are served a light lunch. Following lunch, the participants take part in an autograph-photograph session with two Indians players. Afterwards, the participants get to observe batting practice and the day concludes with that evening's game. Game ticket is not included in the price of the clinic.

For information on dates, and cost of the clinics, call (216) 543-1131.

## JACOBS FIELD TOURS

When it comes to popularity, Jacobs Field Tours rank only second to attending an actual game at the Indians state-of-

the-art baseball facility. In 1996, more than 32,000 visitors took advantage of the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at Jacobs Field. Tours provide a unique view of the Ballpark from the Home Dugout, a Party Suite, and the Press Box. Visitors also see a special video of the restricted areas, such as the home club-



Photo credit: Gregory Drezdson

house. For the general public, tours are conducted from May to September, Monday through Saturday (excluding holidays, day games, and special events) and select Sundays during the summer months. Tickets may be purchased at the Indians Main Box Office, Indians Team Shops, and at area Ticketmaster Ticket Centers beginning in April.

Advance purchase is suggested. Call (216) 420-4400 for more information.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THESE, OR ANY OTHER INDIANS COMMUNITY RELATIONS EFFORT IN NORTHEAST OHIO, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLEVELAND INDIANS COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AT (216) 420-4400.**





# MINOR LEAGUE OPERATIONS/SCOUTING



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdron, all photos

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 Dan O'Dowd . . . . . Director of Baseball Operations/  
 Assistant GM  
 Lee MacPhail . . . . . Director of Scouting  
 Mark Shapiro . . . Director, Minor League Operations  
 Wendy Hoppel . . . Administrator, Player Personnel

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 Boyd Coffie. . . . . Minor League Field Coordinator  
 Mike Brown . . . . . Pitching Coordinator  
 Brian Graham . . . . . Defensive Coordinator  
 Harry Spilman . . . . . Instructor  
 Gordie MacKenzie . . . . . Instructor  
 Ted Kubiak . . . . . Instructor  
 Dr. Charles A. Maher . . . Instructor/Sport Psychologist  
 Trent Clark . . . . . Minor League Strength  
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 Chris Jefts . . . . . Central CA  
 Winston Llenas . . . . . Dominican Republic  
 Guy Mader . . . . . CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT  
 Kasey McKeon . . . . . NC, SC, VA  
 Jim Moran . . . . . Southern FL, Puerto Rico  
 Max Semler . . . . . KY, MS, TN  
 Jim Stevenson . . . . . Northern TX, AR, OK,  
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 Mike Toomey . . . . . DE, MD, NJ, PA, WV, D.C.  
 Major League Scouts . . . . . Dan Carnevale,  
 Dom Chiti, Tom Giordano,  
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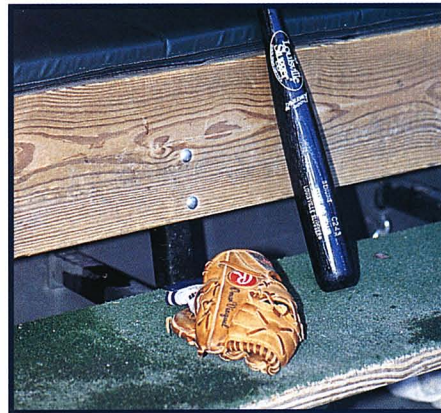
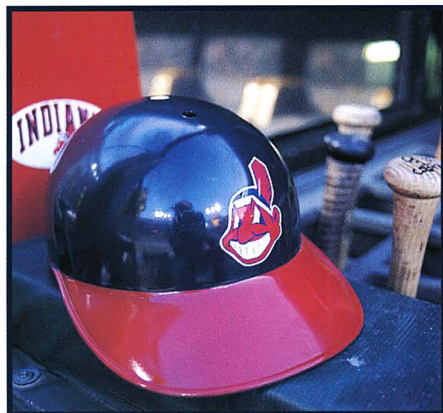


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdron, all photos



# Young Guns

By Steve Herrick

The last three seasons of Cleveland Indians baseball have been highlighted by sellout crowds, comeback wins, division titles, and a World Series appearance.

Yes, people will be telling their children and their grandchildren about this era of Indians baseball.

The future, thanks to the presence of young pitchers like Bartolo Colon and Jaret Wright, doesn't look too shabby, either. Wright and Colon are the young guns.

Just how promising are their futures? Wright and Colon are two of the most wanted men in baseball. John Hart's phone has been ringing off the hook the last two years with other teams wanting these pitchers in the deal.



Photo credit: Gregory Drezdton, both photos



Hart's response: Forget it. Which brings us to one of baseball's oldest sayings.

"Sometimes the trades you don't make are your best trades," said pitching coach Mark Wiley.

Especially in this case. The future is bright for both righthanders. Both are hard throwers who have put up impressive Minor League numbers since joining the Indians organization.

And here's the best part. Wright won't turn 22 until December while Colon turned 22 in May.

"I'm very pleased with where they are," said Wiley.

Wright was the Indians No. 1 draft pick in 1994 and quickly moved through the Tribe's Class A levels at Burlington, Columbus, and Kinston. He started this season at Class AA Akron before moving to Class AAA Buffalo in May. Wright got the call to Cleveland on June 24.

Colon was signed as a non-drafted free agent in 1993. Like Wright, he quickly moved up the organizational ladder. Colon spent the 1993 season pitching with the Indians Minor League team in the Dominican Republic. He spent the 1994 season at Burlington and 1995 in Kinston. Colon split last season between Class AA Canton-Akron and Buffalo. He made the team out of Spring Training this season and has pitched for both the Indians and Buffalo.

The Indians weren't counting on either this season. The plan went like this: Let both mature another year in the Minors, get their feet wet in a possible September

call-up, and then see if they can make a run at the rotation at Spring Training in '98. The plan changed soon after the season began and the rotation was decimated by injuries. Jack McDowell, Orel Hershiser, Chad Ogea, and Brian Anderson all ended up on the disabled list, forcing Wright and Colon to the Bigs earlier than anticipated.

Wiley. "We thought they'd be down there most of the year, at least. They've been through some tough games and rose to the occasion. It's nice to see young pitchers be that impressive with a first-division team with that kind of extra pressure."

Wiley thinks getting thrown into the fray at such an early age will help in the long run.

"I think the experience they've gained this year will make them that much better down the road," he said.

Like any young pitcher, the two have had their ups and downs, but both are getting high marks for what they've done this season. When dealing with young pitchers, results aren't the only thing teams are concerned with. Wright and Colon are getting passing grades



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson





in other areas, too.

"We look at how they handle themselves and what kind of adjustments they make," said O'Dowd. "We also look at their progress from outing to outing and work day to work day. When they do that, we feel the results will take care of themselves."

"It's a growing process," said Wiley. "They haven't had a full season at Double or Triple-A. Most young pitchers have usually pitched in college or have had a full season at one level of the Minors. Neither Jaret nor Bartolo have had that experience."

Both youngsters have shown maturity beyond their years.

"They're recognizing they have to make adjustments," said O'Dowd. "That's encouraging. The only way to go through this is to go out and do it. It might be painful for the fans and the manager and the pitching coach and the front office, but when

you look at their maturation process and what we got out of them this year, it will pay huge dividends for us down the road."

"They're both doing a pretty good job," said Wiley. "They've shown good mound poise and have learned how to attack pressure situations. They've improved on their off-speed pitches—They can get them over when they're behind or even in the count. Their command within the strike zone is getting better. That's all contributing to their success."

So is their we-know-we-belong-here approach.

"Not all kids are like that," said Wiley. "That's why some guys become Major Leaguers and some don't. I've seen guys with great stuff who never made it because they couldn't get comfortable. Not all guys can do that."

Still, the Indians want to express caution.

"I think people are beginning to understand that it takes a long time for a young pitcher to mature, especially when that pitcher is only 21 years old," said O'Dowd.

"The thing is, you don't want to ask too much of them," said Wiley. "You have to understand that they're ahead of schedule. They have a lot to learn."

The Indians have also kept a close eye on their workload.

"This is the most innings both have ever pitched in one season," said Wiley. "That's the one thing we have to be careful of. They've come through the mental points and the game points very well, but with a young kid, you don't know how he'll respond to the increased work load, especially at the big league level. Jaret and Bartolo have handled it well."

Wiley says both have four pitches: a two-seam fastball, a four-seam fastball, a change-up, and a curveball. Both average between 94 and 97mph.

There are many lessons to learn in Pitching 101. One goes something like this: A pitcher who relies solely on his fastball spends a lot of time watching baseballs fly out of ballparks.

"Many young pitchers try to throw their breaking pitches too hard," said Wiley. "Breaking pitches should have less velocity than the fastball with late action on it. Pitchers try to do too much and throw





Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

through their breaking pitches. A key is getting command of it. They've both done it off and on. They're getting better."

Changing speeds is key for any pitcher, but especially for the young ones.

"They've both seen the value in the change-up," said Wiley. "Sometimes in the Minors, you're doing guys a favor by throwing it because there aren't as many good hitters down there. Here, they've seen the value of throwing it. They've both improved."

"Once they learn to relax, their stuff becomes much better," said O'Dowd. "Jaret's got a real good feel for what he wants to do. Bartolo has a better feel than most people realize. When pitchers throw as hard as they do, they want to throw as hard as they can, but the key is location, location, location. That's more important than velocity."

"What you have to do is keep batters off-balance," said Wright. "You can't let them eliminate one of your pitches. You've got to throw all your pitches for strikes. They hit good pitches up here. You can make good pitches, but they'll hit good pitches. They hit bad pitches, too."

"We were playing a game in Seattle and Bartolo struck out Russ Davis with a 96mph fastball on the black," said O'Dowd. "Later, with Edgar Martinez up, he threw a 98mph fastball, but he got it up and over the plate. Martinez hit it for a double off the wall. Bartolo said after the game that if he had made the pitch go where he wanted, he would've struck him out."

"It's not only throwing strikes when you're at the



PARK, DINE, PLAY. THE  
TAKE THE AVENUE



Major League level," said Wiley. "You have to have command of the strike zone. You have to have several areas where you can go to. It doesn't matter how hard you throw. A hitter can hit it if you don't have the location."

Wright is keeping his eyes and ears open.

"So far I'm still learning," he said. "I'm still not where I want to be. If you ever reach the point you want to be, you just stay there. You can always take it to another level. There's always something else you can do."

What's the biggest difference between the Minors and the Majors for a pitcher?

"I think the biggest overall difference is the discipline of hitters at each level," Wright said. "At Double-A, they might swing at a fastball off the plate, but they don't in Triple-A. Up here, the discipline is better."

While Wright and Colon share the same experiences on the mound, there's nothing similar about their backgrounds. Wright, who was born in Anaheim, CA, grew up around big-league life. His father, Clyde, pitched in the Majors from 1966-'75. Colon was born in Altamira in the Dominican Republic.

"Jaret looks like he belongs at the big league level," said O'Dowd. "His dad was a successful ML pitcher. Jaret grew up with that. He looked like he belonged from the minute he stepped onto the field. Bartolo's a completely different situation. You look at where he came from and how he had to get used to living in a new country and a new language, and how much he played as a kid."

"That's definitely an advantage for Jaret," said Wiley. "If



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

# THE BASE

## FUN STARTS HERE. TO THE BALLPARK.





you've been around it, it helps. It takes a lot of the guesswork out of it. If you walk into a Major League ballpark and you've never been there before, you're pretty awed by it."

Clyde Wright, a left-handed pitcher, went 100-111 with the Angels, Brewers, and Rangers in his Major League career.

"There was never any pressure on me to play baseball because my father played," said Jaret. "He told me if I wanted to play he would certainly teach me. He had a pitching school in Anaheim and I'd go there and throw."

Wright's sports interests were split at Katella High School.

"I loved to play football," he said. "I was a quarterback and a linebacker. By my junior year, we could tell I had a pretty good arm and I started leaning toward baseball. Plus, I got two concussions playing football."

Wright did get one valuable piece of advice from his father: Don't put a timetable on reaching the big leagues.

"I asked my dad and he said if you put it on a timetable and don't reach it by that time, you'll think you did something wrong," he said. "He told me to concentrate on where I am at the time."

Conversations between Clyde and Jaret Wright don't dwell entirely on baseball.

"If I have a question I'll call him and ask him," said Jaret. "For the most part I talk to the coaches here."

Wright's family came to Buffalo in late June to see him pitch. That didn't happen because he got the call from the Indians.

"In Buffalo, there were rumors going around," said Wright.

Continued on page 74

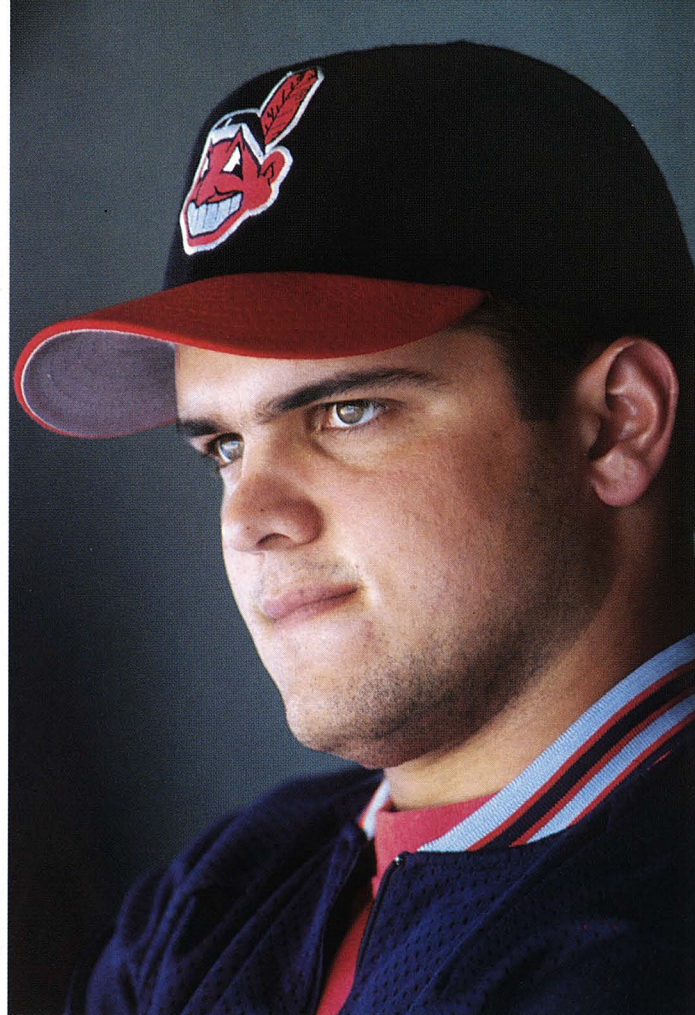


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

## Three Great Ways to Enjoy Gateway!

(besides going to the game)

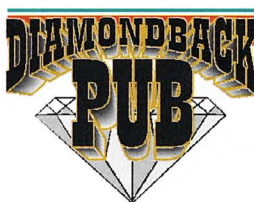


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## Young Guns, cont.



Photo credit: Gregory Drezdson

"I kept pitching and waited to see what would happen. My parents came to see me pitch in Buffalo. After I got called up they came to Cleveland."

Wright, with his family watching, won his first Major League start. He allowed five runs in 5 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings in a 10-5 win over the Twins.

"That was awesome," said Wright. "It was really exciting to hear an ovation like that from 42,000 people."

Colon's first win came on June 7 when he allowed four runs in seven innings in a 9-5 win over the Red Sox.

Colon and Wright both met with injury problems in the Minors. Colon's season was cut short the last two years by elbow problems.

"It's been an encouraging year

for Bartolo," said O'Dowd. "It's his first year without injuries. He's maintained his velocity."

Wright's problem was purely an accident. After going 4-4 with a 2.53 ERA in the first half for Kinston last season, he was scheduled to start the Class A Carolina League All-Star Game against the California League All-Stars at Rancho Cucamonga, CA, on June 18. After warming up in the bullpen, Wright was walking to the dugout when he was hit in the mouth by a bat swung by Ron Wright (no relation), who was taking some practice swings. Wright suffered a broken jaw and didn't pitch again until August 5.

"There was small foul territory at that ballpark," he said. "The field was right by a fence and there wasn't much room for play-

mother saw it happen. Then they all saw the blood everywhere."

The injury did more than just keep Wright off the field.

"For about five-and-a-half weeks, I couldn't eat solid food," he said. "I had to drink everything through plastic syringes. The only good thing about it was, that since I was in California, I could stay at my parents' house. My mom used the blender a lot. She made blended soup and stew and all kinds of blended stuff."

Even talking was a problem.

"For a while all I could do was mumble," said Wright. "I had to write things down."

Naturally, the idle time was a source of frustration.

"It was a real downer," he said. "Every day I just thought about getting back. I was able to come back relatively quickly. I was out

about six or seven weeks. I couldn't work out much. It was very limited. I couldn't breathe. I really couldn't start working out until I got the wires out. I would throw at my dad's pitching school for five minutes every other day."

Wright and Colon compare notes about their rookie seasons.

"We talk as much as we can," said Wright. "We played together our first year at Burlington so we've known each other a while."

It looks like American League hitters are

going to know Wright and Colon for a while, too. And the pitchers' best attribute is something they're not going to like.

"Neither one is afraid," said Wiley. "They don't fear competition. They like competition."

That competition is something Tribe fans are sure to enjoy for a long time.



Photo credit: Gregory Drezdson

ers to warm up. I was walking by the fence and he was just warming up. It was a freak accident."

Doctors told Wright the injury could have been much worse.

"They said it hit me in the right spot," said Wright. "I just broke my jaw. I didn't lose any teeth or get hit in the eye."

"My whole family was at the game," he said. "Only my grand-



## ***What A Game!***

**by Tom Bochenek**

The piercing sound of a train whistle echoes around East Ninth Street, Carnegie, and Ontario Avenues as a signal for "all aboard!" It's 90 minutes before game time at Jacobs Field and the ironclad gates open in unison to a rush of fans scurrying to get the best spots for batting practice. A daily ritual, indeed, has begun as slowly, but surely, Cleveland's treasure chest of a Ballpark begins to fill with its priceless jewels—its endearing fans.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the renaissance of baseball in this chartered American League franchise takes place during this 90-minute period. No matter the winning streaks or slumps; no matter the day of the week; no matter the ever-changing climate conditions, YOU, the fans, are here.

YOU arrive from all directions, from the direct access routes of I-77, I-71, or I-90, from the downtown business district and from all points across the country. YOU have made the Indians the most popular Major League franchise of the 1990s, displaying that devotion with merchandise sales of Chief Wahoo attire that makes NIKE and its swoosh symbol jealous.

YOU have put the Indians in the American League record books and, soon enough, into the Major League record books for devotion. For an unprecedented second straight season, YOU sold out Jacobs Field for every game, extending a consecutive streak of regular season sell-out crowds to 211 games entering the 1998 season.

Hey, YOU have even come to the rescue of a few other Major League teams, helping fill such half-empty stadiums as Tiger Stadium in Detroit and Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium!

The Colorado Rockies are the only Major League franchise that has a similar streak of sellouts, but, what the heck, can the fans of that expansion team sustain that streak like the century-old Indians fans?

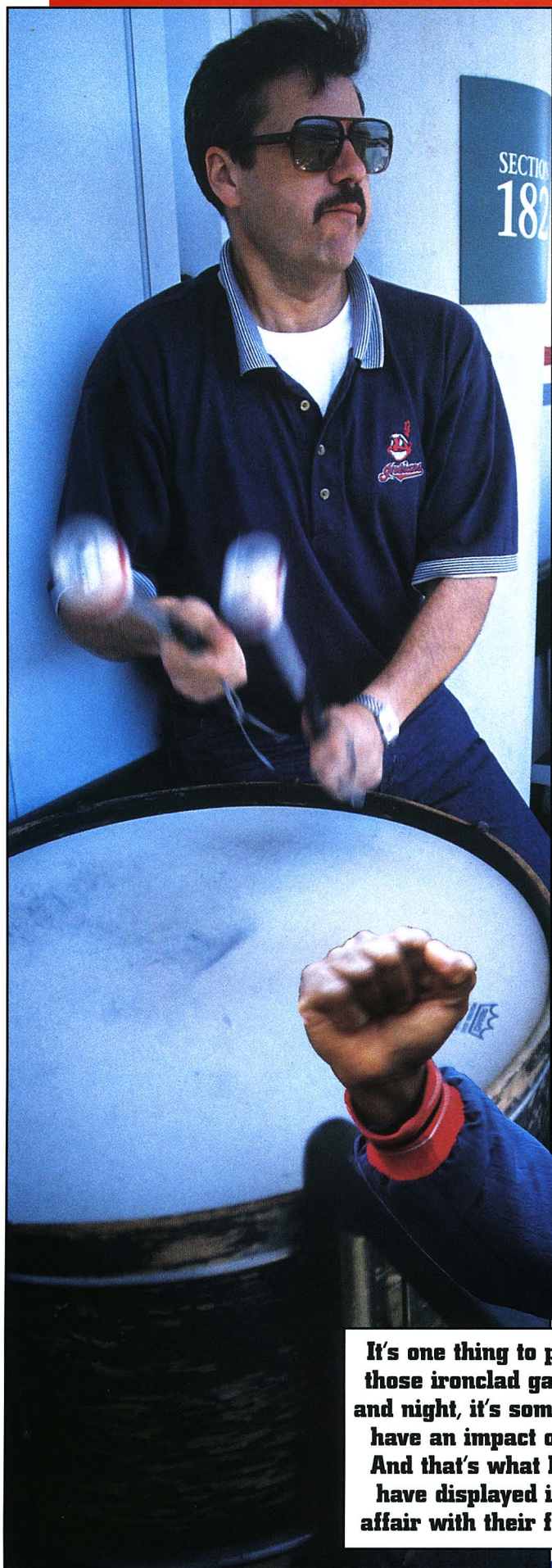
Only time will tell.

The best time in Cleveland professional sports is a ballgame at The Jake.



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson





"If you have a ticket," said Ben Dunlap of Kent, OH, "you're lucky to go. It's a big thing to have all the games sold out."

It's one thing to pass through those ironclad gates each day and night, it's something else to have an impact on the game. And, that's what Indians fans have displayed in their love affair with their favorite team. It starts with the constant thumping of a Cleveland tradition—the drum-beating of John Adams in the left field bleachers.

The momentum stirred by Adams reverberates around the Ballpark. It keeps Tribe fans in the game, no matter the lead or deficit.

"He's the pulse," said Sheila Duke of Cuyahoga Falls, OH, who watches or listens to each game via The Jake, television, or radio. "When he starts beating the drums, everyone starts clapping. He sets the tone, then the scoreboard prompts you to make noise."

"Oh, I think the players draw from the crowd," said Joe Benner of Canton, OH, who has been a regular at Indians games for almost 30 years. "It's funny, but it could be cold here, cold in Cleveland, but once you get inside Jacobs Field, it's hot. Once the game begins, everyone pays attention. Everyone is involved."

For many fans in attendance, that involvement means studying the game.

"For me, it's not the park, it's the game and the strategies of the game," Don Pudloski of Stow, OH, said of his attraction to Tribe games. "We would go to Cleveland Stadium, as dingy as it was, just to go to the game. That's how I got involved in the game."

"But, Jacobs Field has helped a lot. We've been able to attract free-agent players and, while we may not have signed them all, they have visited Cleveland and the Ballpark and they know the games are sold out."

**It's one thing to pass through those ironclad gates each day and night, it's something else to have an impact on the game. And that's what Indians fans have displayed in their love affair with their favorite team.**

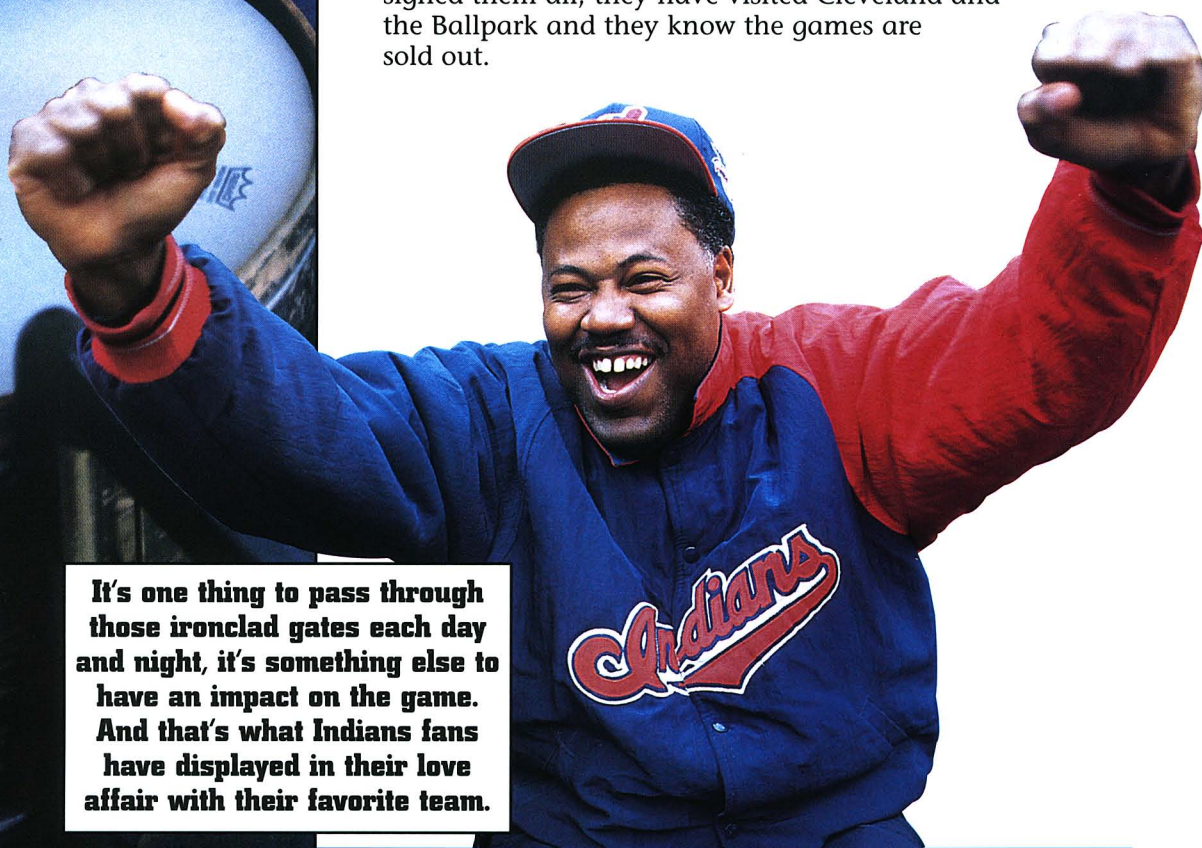






Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

It's like going to work in a new office or buying a new house where everything is exciting and upbeat. Now, every game means something."

True, every game now means something. As the Indians enter the playoffs for the third consecutive season, they join the Atlanta Braves as the only three-time champions of their respective

divisions since the three-division structure in each league began championship play in 1995.

Longtime fans who waited lifetimes to see pennants flying with the words "Cleveland Indians, Central Division Champions, 1995-1996-1997" and "Cleveland Indians, American League Champions, 1995" sense a different atmosphere now that winning has become a tradition in Cleveland.

"It's a whole new crowd," said veteran observer Geoff Geers of Dover, OH. "There used to be the hard-core 3,000 to 4,000 at Cleveland Stadium; now there's different groups of people and a lot more excitement.

"What's made it special are the comeback wins. Everybody feels there's hope until the last out. I've seen crowds stay when the Indians are down five or six runs and most of them think they have a shot. Heck, I remember the old days when the Indians were down 3-2 and that was it."

The new days in Cleveland

mean going to The Jake. Sure, it's the game, but thanks in large part to the success of the Indians in the 90s, there's plenty to do downtown. It's a night (or day) on the town, staying downtown for the surplus of social activities ranging from The Flats, to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, to the many restaurants and lounges that have sprung up around Jacobs Field the past four years. Thanks to Indians fans, businesses are booming in downtown Cleveland.

"When you walk into The Jake," said Rob Purcell of Kent, OH, "you feel an excitement in the air, something big is going on. I enjoy going to live pro sporting events, and I think the fans in Cleveland have quite a bit of impact on the team. When the Tribe wins, they play John Mellencamp music and the fans are energetic. The fans are around for the final inning because they think the Indians can win.

"I think the Indians are very lucky to have the support of Cleveland fans."

The fans are fortunate to have



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson



a Ballpark such as Jacobs Field.

"It's such a great home run park," said Benner. "When my friends and I go to the game, we have a fantasy home run derby because you know you're going to see three or four homers a night."

"When I see Jacobs Field," said Duke, "I get goose bumps. I'm like a kid. It's so exciting to see the Ballpark from the highway. It's just a festive atmosphere."

A special FAN of the Indians fans and Jacobs Field is All-Star first baseman Mark Grace, who made two trips to The Jake in 1997 as a member of the National League All-Star Team and with the Chicago Cubs who played an Interleague series here.

"I could play 81 ballgames here," said Grace who was moved by the fans' enthusiasm during his two visits. "This is a great place to play and there's a sellout every game. What ballplayer is not impressed by that?"

"They run nine great hitters at you for 27 outs," Grace noted. "The fans are on their feet and they are loud. I know just how loud this place can be; I was playing first base in the All-Star Game when Sandy (Alomar) hit that (game-winning) home run."

"That was the loudest crowd I've ever heard in a ballpark. They've got great fans here and they sell out every game. That's unbelievable."

Tribe newcomers Matt Williams and David Justice share Grace's enthusiasm for Indians fans.

"They certainly love the Indians, that's evident when you sell out a season in nine days," said Williams who played his entire Major League career in the National League with San Francisco before coming to Cleveland this season.

"This is my first year here and everybody tells me what a great place this is, especially during the playoffs. I want to experience that; everybody tells me they (the fans) go crazy and downtown is packed during the playoffs. There're people in the streets and

it's a very good atmosphere."

Justice, who played before packed houses at times in Atlanta before his acquisition in late March, sees a slight difference in the type of fan that comes to Jacobs Field.

"I think the atmosphere in Cleveland is more of a family atmosphere," Justice assessed. "A lot of people who come to watch the Braves aren't really from Atlanta; a lot of people have moved to Atlanta, whereas, here, it appears to me a lot of people are from Cleveland, so they have more a sense of family-type feeling toward the team."

And, just as families bond during difficult moments, Justice thinks that attitude has helped

his teammates in 1997.

"Our fans have really supported us during our tough times," Justice pointed out. "As a player, you really appreciate that type of support. There's nothing like it—I think the support of your fans can really be the deciding factor in a series, in a playoff game. When you have your fans behind you, it pumps the players up, it adds that adrenalin to the ballpark and it's just a wonderful place to play."

Or, as Williams succinctly puts it: "It's nice to have people out there every day cheering for you and rootin' you on. It makes you feel good."

Sound the whistle. Open the gates. It's "all aboard!"



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson



**sock it  
'em,  
to  
Tribe!**





# Indians Year In Review—

By Jim Ingraham

OK, so it wasn't 1995.

There will never be another 1995.

There will never be another Indians season like that one, where almost every game left every Indians fan limp, exhausted, and hoarse.

There will never be another season in which every game was a nerve-wracking, spine-tingling high wire act, in which, it seemed, every night there was a different Indians player carrying an orphan out of the burning building.

That was then. This is now.

And in 1997, the Indians had a season that was a more typical baseball season. There were highs and lows, streaks and slumps, good days and bad. There was also a real live pennant race—unlike the previous two seasons in which the Indians won the Central Division by a combined 44 1/2 games.

This year the Indians were pushed from wire to wire by the surprising Milwaukee Brewers, and the confusing Chicago White Sox.

When it was over, the Indians had won their third straight Central Division title. It was a bumpy ride at times, but a smooth landing.

And it was a season worth looking back on, month by unpredictable month.

Here is one man's opinion on the top five games each month, followed by the Top 10 games of the year.

*Editor's note: You'll have to judge September for yourself, since at the time of the printing of this publication, the games weren't played yet.*

## APRIL

### 1. ALL THOSE WHO HAVEN'T HIT A HOME RUN, RAISE THEIR HANDS — April 25 in Milwaukee; Indians-11, Brewers-4.

The Indians hit three home runs in the fourth inning. They hit one home run in the sixth. They hit two more in the seventh. They hit another one in the eighth. With two outs in the ninth, Sandy Alomar hit still another homer. That made eight home runs for the game, and that broke a 31-year-old Indians record for most home runs in one game, which had been seven, on July 17, 1966.

More amazing still: the Indians did not hit their first home run until the fourth inning, then they hit eight in the last six innings. Of the last 33 Indians players to come to the plate, eight of them hit home runs. In the fourth inning the Indians and Brewers combined to hit five home runs, which tied the Major League record for most home runs in an inning.

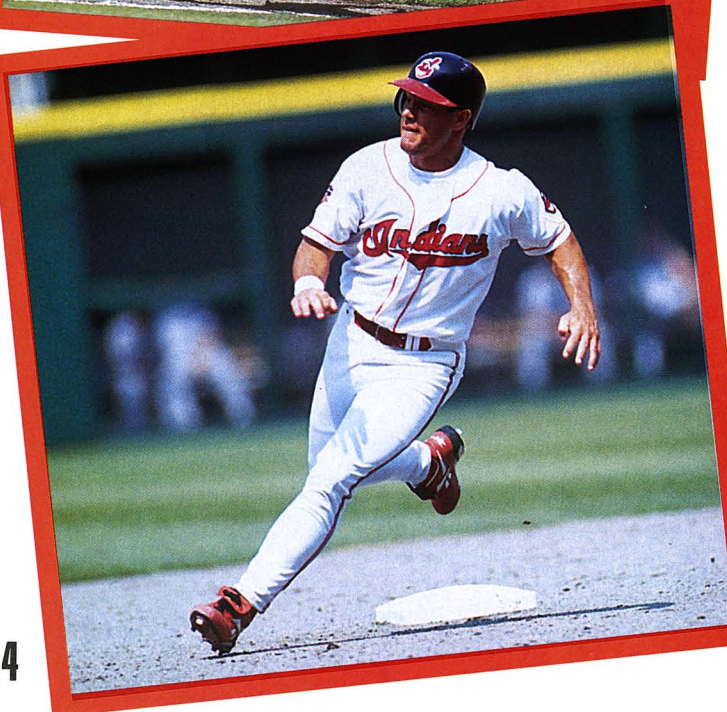
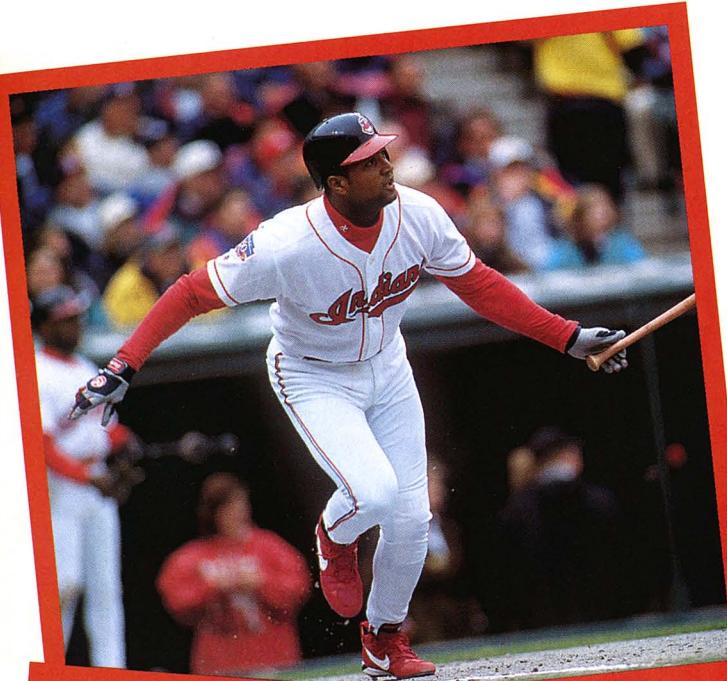


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson, all photos



And, oh, by the way, Matt Williams hit three of the Tribe's eight homers, becoming the 18th player in Tribe history to hit three home runs in one game.

## 2. ALOMAR STARTS REPEATING HIMSELF —

**April 8 in Seattle; Mariners-14, Indians-8.**

In 1991 and 1992 combined, Sandy Alomar hit three homers in 483 at-bats. From April 4-7 this year, Alomar hit four home runs in 14 at-bats. The home runs came in consecutive games. He came into this game needing a home run to tie the Indians club record for home runs in five consecutive games, which was shared by Larry Doby and Al Rosen.

In the fifth inning of this otherwise forgettable loss, Alomar ripped a pitch from reliever Edwin Hurtado over the left field wall for the record-tying home run.

At the time, it seemed likely to be the highlight of Alomar's season... Yeah, right.

## 3. OREL HERSHISER, HERCULES, HERCULES, OREL HERSHISER —

**April 30 in Cleveland; A's-11, Indians-9.**

No, it didn't show up on radar at Hopkins International Airport, but it could have. When the ball left Mark McGwire's bat, it seemed headed for Erie, PA, minimum, Ashtabula for sure—depending on traffic, of course. Then the Budweiser sign on the left field scoreboard got in the way. McGwire's fourth-inning homer off Hershiser was the first, and is still the only ball ever hit off the big board. And the ball didn't just kiss the board, it left a dent.

Opposing players still point with awe to that spot when they visit Jacobs Field.

## 4. FEELS LIKE '95 ALL OVER AGAIN —

**April 6 at Anaheim; Indians 10, Angels 8.**

Over the last few years the Indians haven't been very merciful to Troy Percival. The Angels' flamethrowing reliever got tattooed for three ninth-inning home runs by the Indians in 1996, and in this game the Indians nearly did it again.

With the score tied 8-8, Percival came on to pitch the ninth. With one out Brian Giles blasted a home run to center field. One batter later Alomar blasted a home run to left. All of a sudden it was 10-8. All of a sudden it was over.

## 5. OPEN WIDE — April 2 at Oakland; Indians-9, A's-7

Do these guys know how to open a season, or what? On Opening Day in Oakland, in their first inning of '97, the Indians batted around, sending 10 men to the plate and scoring four runs enroute to a 9-7 victory.

# MAY

## 1. ANYBODY KNOW HOW TO PITCH THE NEW GUY? —

**May 26 in Chicago; Indians-10, White Sox-4**

For the first time in the history of either one of them, the Indians and Albert Belle compete in a game on different sides. Talk about your subplots! This subplot was so big it nearly swallowed the game whole. Orel Hershiser becomes the first Indians pitcher to ever face Belle, whom he retires on a groundout in the first inning. Hershiser strikes out Belle in the fourth inning and gets him on another groundout in the sixth. But in the eighth, Belle singles off Jose Mesa to extend his hitting streak to 21 games.

Whoop-de-freaking-doo, right?



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

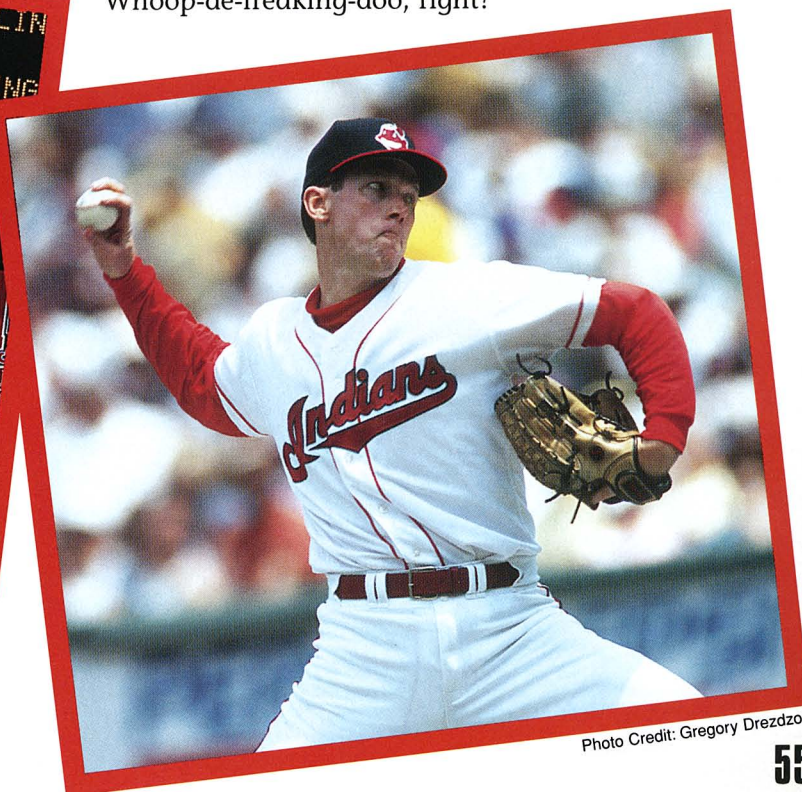


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson



**2. HOW'D YOU DO THAT? — May 21 in Cleveland;  
Indians-1, Royals-0**

The Indians had two hits in this game—both singles—and they won. As a point of reference, the Indians lost a game this year in which they had 18 hits, they lost one in which they had 15 hits, and they lost four in which they had 13 hits. What can we learn from this? This: hits are sometimes overrated. Runs are never overrated.

This game is the first 1-0 game at Jacobs Field since July 14, 1995. The Indians played 278 games between 1-0 games at Jacobs Field. Both their hits and their run came in the fourth inning of this game: consecutive singles by Jim Thome and Matt Williams. The Indians scored their run on a double steal. Julio Franco drew the throw by stealing second, and Thome raced home with the run on the throw to second.

Kevin Appier pitched a two-hitter for Kansas City and lost. He did not enjoy this game.

**3. 1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3 (THIS IS NOT A RECORDING) —  
May 30 in Baltimore; Orioles-3, Indians-0**

The Indians sent 24 men to the plate, and Orioles pitcher Mike Mussina sent all 24 right back to the dugout. In order. Three up and three down for eight straight innings. When Tony Fernandez led off the ninth by grounding out, Mussina had retired

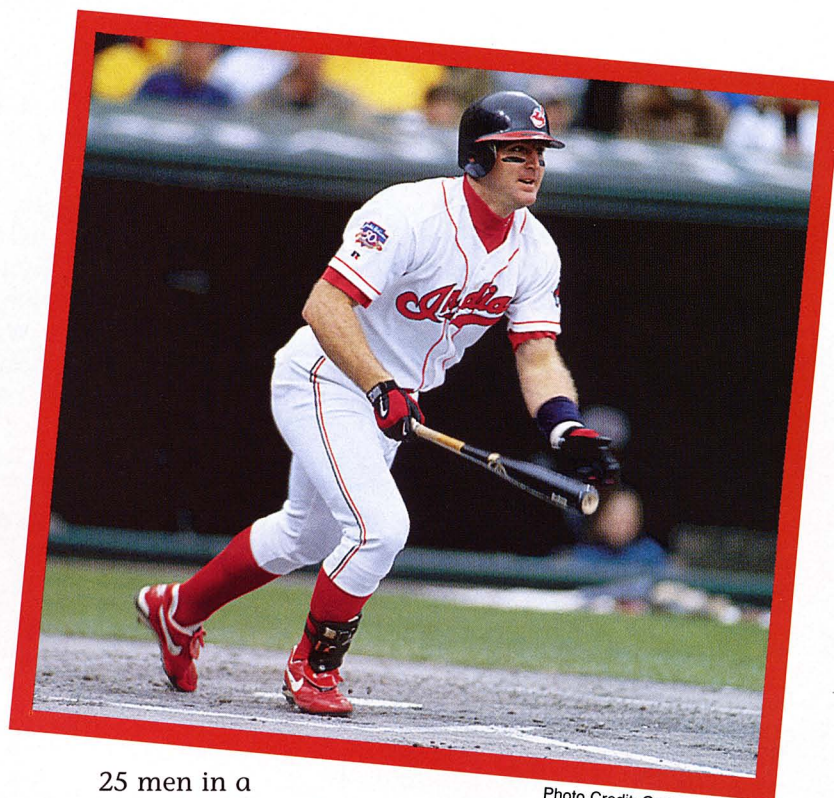


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

25 men in a row, and was within two outs of a perfect game.

But then Alomar—who else, right?—stroked a clean single to left field.

Mussina struck out the next two batters and had to settle for a one-hit shutout.

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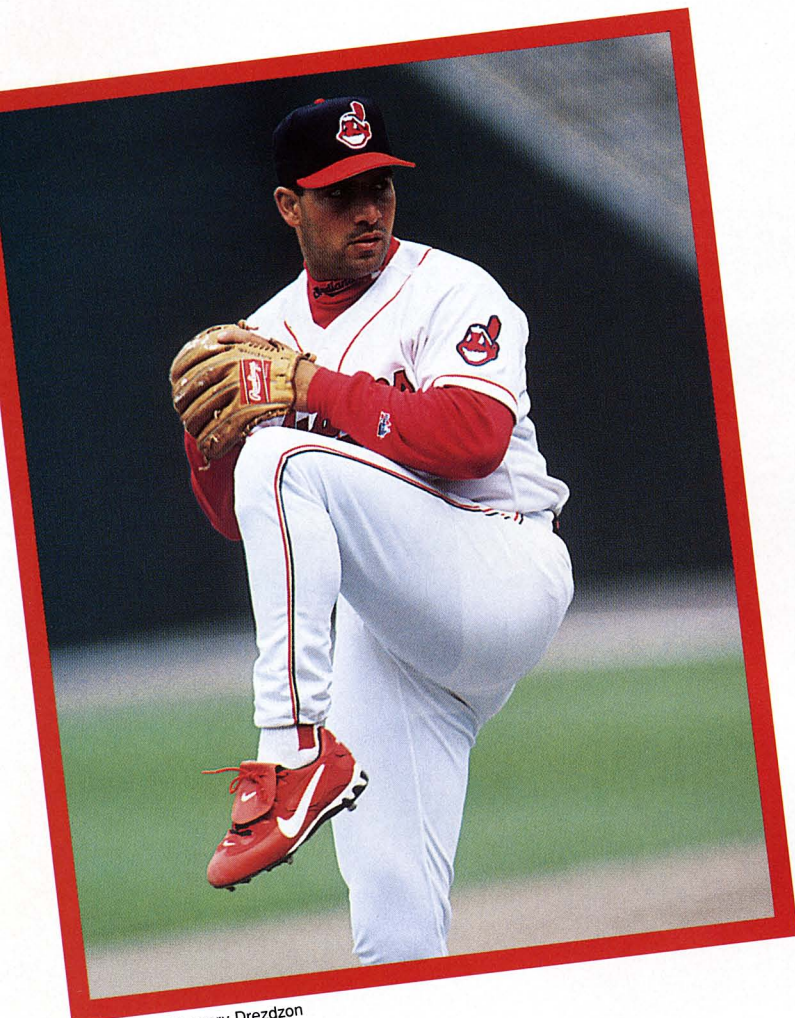


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

At the time it seemed like that might be one of the highlights of Alomar's season... Yeah, right.

#### 4. OGEA? OK! — May 23 in Cleveland; Indians-6, Orioles-1

When B.J. Surhoff singled with one out in the second inning of this game, it was the second hit allowed by Chad Ogea. It was also the last hit allowed by Ogea. He held the Orioles hitless over the last seven innings, retiring the last 15 men in a row. The Orioles only hit four balls out of the infield after the second inning.

#### 5. WHO ELSE? — May 3 in Cleveland; Indians-7, Tigers-6

After Detroit takes a 6-5 lead in the top of the ninth inning, the Indians score two runs in the bottom of the ninth to win it. The Indians used two hits, a walk, a wild pitch, a passed ball, a sacrifice fly and then, with two outs, a game-winning RBI single by Alomar.

At the time it seemed like it might be the highlight of Alomar's season... Yeah, right.

## JUNE

#### 1. THE END OF CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT, OR MAYBE NOT — June 3 in Cleveland; White Sox-9, Indians-5

This was you-know-who's first appearance in Cleveland in an enemy uniform. By now, you know what happened. It wasn't, you know, a very, you know, Continued on page 68.

## SABR is Baseball

### Society for American Baseball Research

What pitcher played for the Cleveland Spiders from 1890-1898 and later returned to Cleveland from 1909-1911? What Indians' pitcher holds the American League record for most strikeouts by a rookie with 245? Which Cleveland pitchers have pitched a Perfect Game?

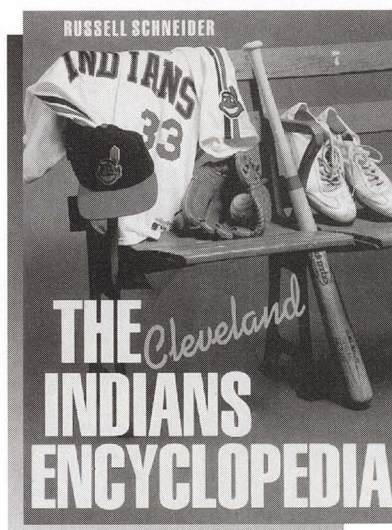
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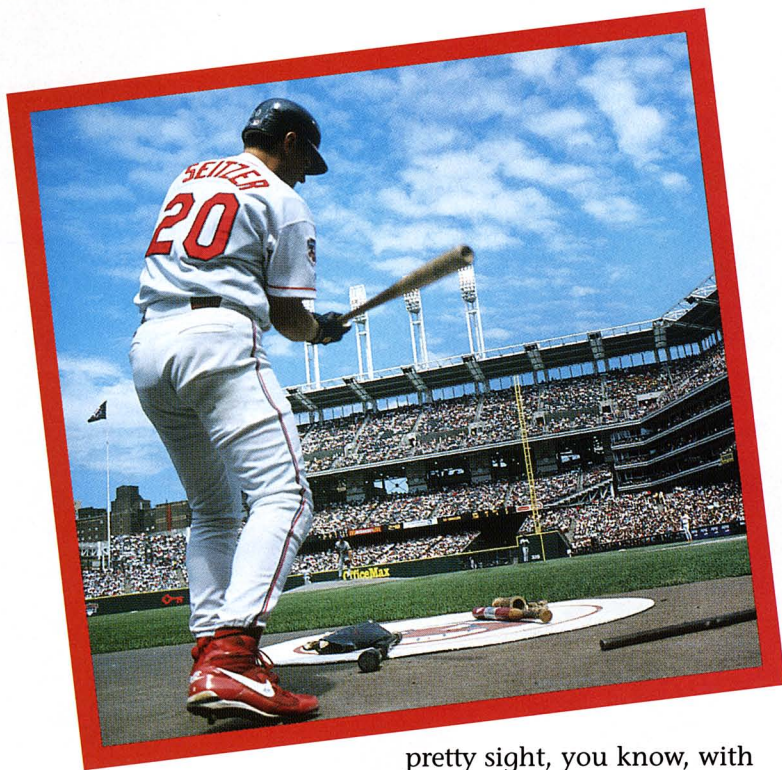
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## 5. ULTRA SEITZER — June 30 in Houston; Indians-6, Astros-4

In their first-ever game in the Astrodome, the Indians win it on a two-run pinch-hit home run by Kevin Seitzer in the top of the ninth inning. Also in this game, Nagy gets a single in the sixth inning to become the first Indians pitcher since Steve Dunning in 1972 to get a hit in a regular season game.

# JULY

## 1. MVP! — July 8 in Cleveland; American League-3, National League-1.

In one of the most electrifying moments in Indians history, Alomar slams a two-out, two-run home run off Shawn Estes in the seventh inning to lead the American League to a 3-1 win over the National League in the All-Star Game. Alomar becomes the first Indians player to win the MVP Award in the All-Star Game, and the first All-Star MVP to win the award in his home Ballpark.

## 2. WHO'D HAVE THUNK IT? — July 6 in Cleveland; Indians-8, Royals-7

In the first inning of this game, Alomar reaches first by beating out a dribbler down the third base line. That extends his hitting streak to 30 games, one away from the club record. It's also the longest hitting streak in the Major Leagues since Jerome Walton hit in 30 straight games for the Cubs in 1989.

## 3. SNAPPED! — July 10 in Minnesota; Twins-8, Indians-2

In the first game after the All-Star break, Alomar's 30-game hitting streak is halted, one shy of the club record. Alomar went 0-for-4, the first time since May 25 that he has played in a game and not gotten a hit.

Ironically, Alomar pops out

pretty sight, you know, with a lot of debris, you know, on the field, you know, and everything, and then, you know, you-know-who gets the last laugh by actually hitting a home run, and well, you know, the whole darn game, you know, sort of just disintegrated from there, you know, into kind of, you know, well, a mess.

## 2. CASEY AT THE BAT — June 5 in Cleveland; Indians-5, White Sox-4

With one out in the bottom of the 11th inning, Manny Ramirez walks and moves to third on a double by Alomar. That brings up the littlest Indian, Casey Candaele. Asked if he thought he might get the sign for the squeeze bunt, Candaele said later, "Not really, I don't know the sign—that's a joke!" Candaele is allowed to hit away, and away he hits. He punches a single to center field off reliever Carlos Castillo to drive in Ramirez with the winning run in a game in which Belle struck out three times.

## 3. DOUBLE MANIA — June 6 in Boston; Indians-7, Red Sox-3

The first one was nice, the second one unusual, the third one rare, the fourth, historic. Four at-bats, four doubles for Alomar, who tied a Major League record for most doubles in a game. Alomar also doubled in his last at-bat on June 5 and in his second at-bat on June 7. In other words, Alomar had six doubles in seven at-bats. In '95, he had six doubles in 203 AB.

## 4. ZERO HEROES — June 15 in St. Louis; Indians-9, Cardinals-2

In one of the weirder games of the year, Charles Nagy and Todd Stottlemire are locked in a 0-0 scoreless duel after seven innings. Nagy holds the Cardinals scoreless on two hits through seven, and Stottlemire holds the Indians scoreless on one hit. Then all hell breaks loose. The Indians score four runs in the eighth and five in the ninth as a pitcher's duel turns into a blowout.

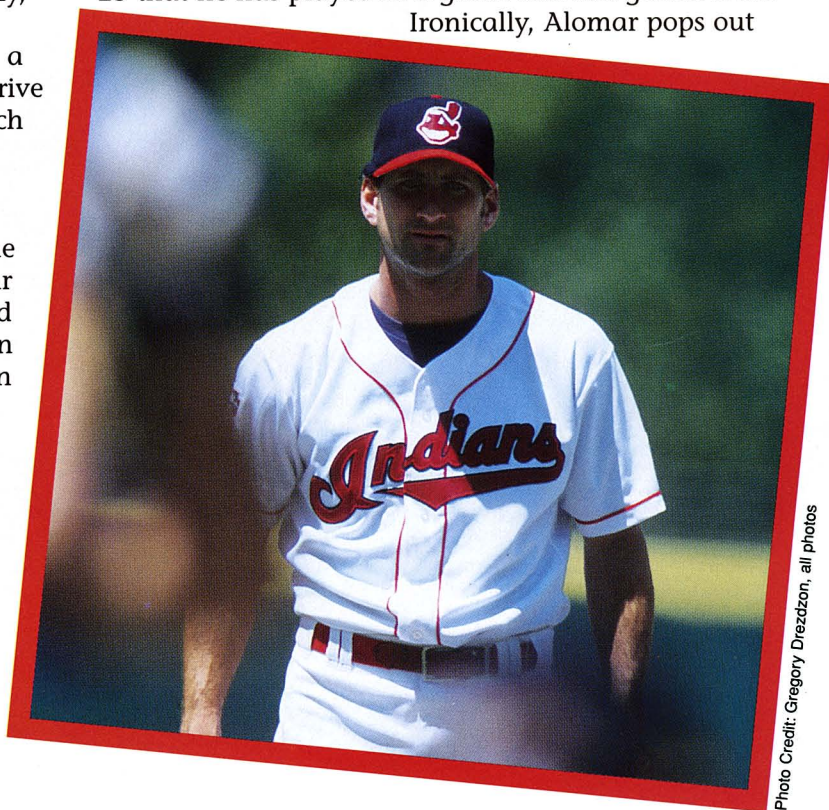


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdron, all photos



for the final out of the game. The 30-game streak is the second longest in Tribe history, behind Napoleon Lajoie's 31-game streak in 1906.

#### 4. MR. WRIGHT — July 26 in Cleveland; Indians-6, A's-3

Jaret Wright, whose father Clyde pitched a no-hitter for the Angels over the A's, holds Oakland hitless for the first four innings, and gets to within one out of a four-hit shutout before tiring and giving up three ninth-inning runs, although he still gets the win.

#### 5. GRISSOM IS GRUESOME FOR THE YANKEES — July 14 in New York; Indians-3, Yankees-2

Marquis Grissom slams a one-out home run in the top of the 10th inning that is the difference in a 3-2 win over the Yankees. Tribe pitchers face the minimum three batters in seven of the 10 innings.

## AUGUST

#### 1. THE BIG 10 — August 27 in Anaheim; Indians-10, Angels-4

Williams sets an Indians record and ties a Major League record with 6 RBI in one inning as the Indians explode for 10 runs in the fourth. Williams clubs a three-run homer and a three-run double in the inning. The Indians send 14 men to the plate in the inning, collecting nine hits. The Indians would have scored 11 runs in the inning, but a runner was thrown out at the plate.

#### 2. MATT'S BAT — August 15 in Cleveland; Indians-5, Blue Jays-4

With the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the ninth, Williams breaks his bat, but manages to muscle a bloop hit to left to drive in the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning. This was game four of a hitting streak that Williams would carry well into September, and it seemed to trigger the Indians late-season surge.

#### 3. HOME RUN DERBY (AGAIN) — August 1 in Arlington, TX; Indians-8, Rangers-5

The Indians blast five home runs, including two by Williams. Trailing 5-4, the Indians erupt for two runs in the eighth and two in the ninth to win it.

### JIM INGRAHAM'S TOP 10 LIST OF '97:

1. Alomar named All-Star Game MVP (July 8).
2. Alomar's 30-game hitting streak (July 6).
3. Albert Belle's return to Cleveland (June 3).
4. Indians hit eight homers vs. Milwaukee (April 25).
5. Alomar hits a home run in his fifth consecutive game (April 8).
6. Mark McGwire hits a home run off the Jacobs Field scoreboard (April 30).
7. Matt Williams gets six RBI in Indians 10-run inning (August 27).
8. Alomar hits four doubles in one game (June 6).
9. Tribe first game vs. White Sox and Belle (May 26).
10. Williams' broken-bat single wins game in the 10th inning (August 15).

#### 4. DETROIT DEMOLITION — August 14 in Cleveland; Indians-12, Tigers-1

In perhaps their most thorough thrashing of any team all year, the Indians score eight runs and hit three home runs in the eighth and ninth innings alone. In addition to the four home runs they hit in the game, the Tribe gets a combined four-hitter from Nagy and Mike Jackson. The Tigers are held scoreless on one hit over the last six innings.

#### 5. THREE PEAT — August 18 in Cleveland; Indians-5, Blue Jays-3

Three Indians pitchers—Hershiser, Jackson, and Mesa—combine on a three-hitter. Vizquel has that many hits

himself, and David Justice blasts a three-run homer in the first inning to ignite the offense.

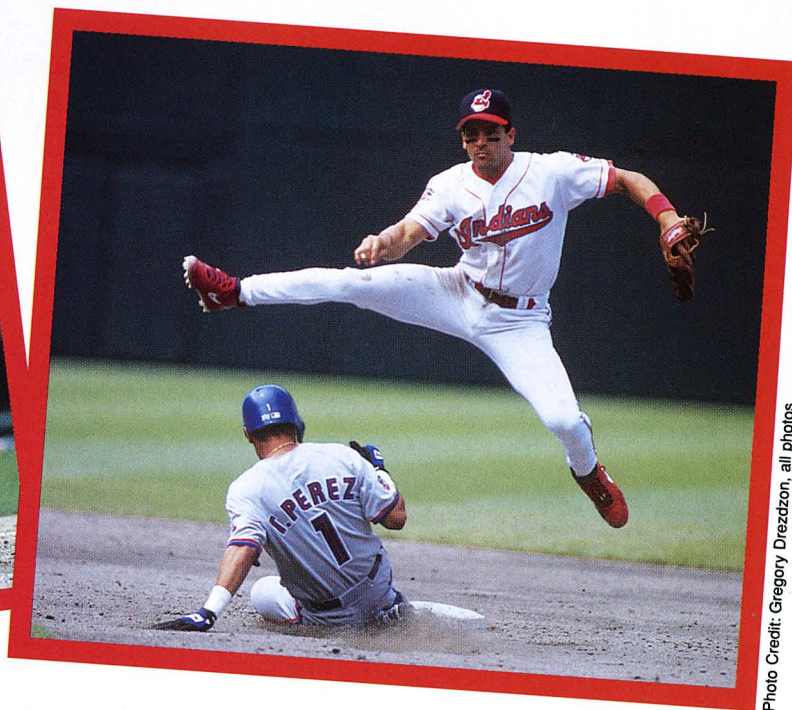
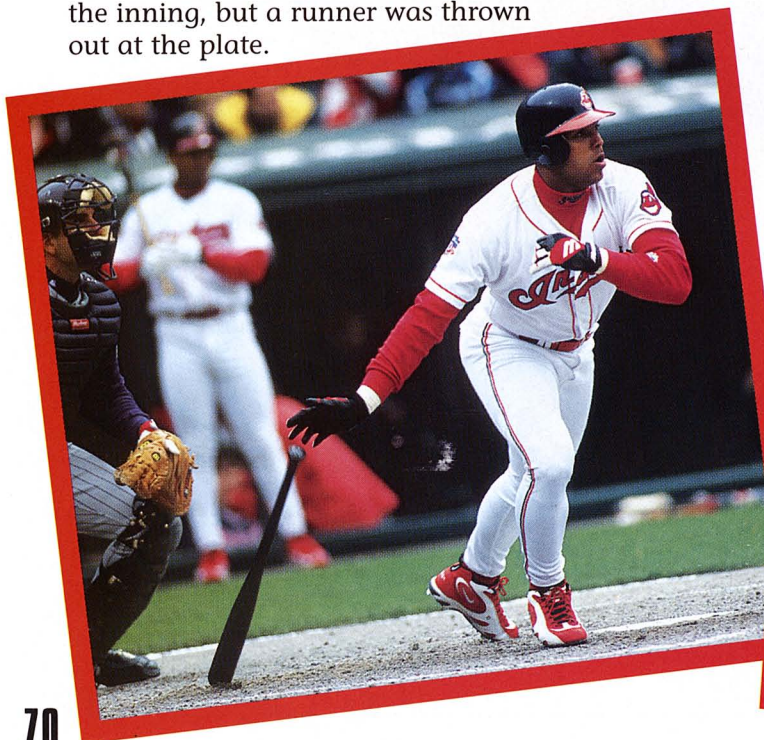


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdon, all photos



## HOW TO SCORE

Baseball fans can enjoy the sport to the fullest extent by keeping track of the game and pinpointing those big plays that bring victory or defeat. All you need is a basic knowledge of the rules.

Although there are countless scoring methods, experts use a simple code based on numbering players by position and tracing action through the use of symbols. It's easy and fun.

In fact, why not devise your own scoring system with the basic suggestions on this page.

One such suggestion on player substitutions is to use a heavy or wavy line under or over a box to indicate a change, either of a player or batter.

If a batter flies to the right-fielder, merely use the figure 9. If it is a foul fly, use 9F.

Now that you are an official "scorer," you can really enjoy baseball games.

Team	Pos.	1	2
Rightfielder	9	4-6 W	
2nd Baseman	4	3 ④FO	
1st Baseman	3	=	
Centerfielder	8	SF 8	
Designated Hitter	DH	K	
Leftfielder	7		4-6
Catcher	2		DP 4-6-3
3rd Baseman	5		⊖
Shortstop	6		7
Pitcher	1		
TOTALS	R / H	1 / 1	1 / 2

Walked and was forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop).

Reached first on fielder's choice when runner was forced out, advanced to third on double by 3rd place hitter, scored on 4th place hitter's sacrifice fly.

Doubled; did not advance further.

Flied out to center field scoring runner on third.

Struck out—end of the inning.

Singled; later forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop in first half of double play).

Hit into double play (2nd baseman to shortstop to 1st baseman).

Hit home run.

Flied out to leftfielder—end of inning.

## USE THESE SYMBOLS FOR PLAYS

— Single  
= Double  
≡ Triple  
≡ Home Run  
E Error  
F Foul Fly  
DP Double Play

FC Fielder's Choice  
HP Hit by Pitcher  
WP Wild Pitch  
SB Stolen Base  
SH Sacrifice Hit  
SF Sacrifice Fly  
CS Caught Stealing

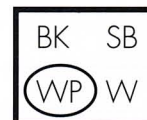
PB Passed Ball  
BK Balk  
K Struck Out  
BB Base on Balls  
FO Forced Out  
IW Intentional Walk

## CAN YOU SCORE THIS PLAY?

The ball was hit to the shortstop, who threw it to the second baseman. The second baseman was able to force out the runner who had been at first. He then threw the ball to the first baseman to get the batter out, turning a double play.



Photo credit: Gregory Dreazon



In this example, the hitter reached first base on a walk, stole second, advanced to third on pitcher's balk, scored on a wild pitch.



"I was thinking of the big scoreboard in front of the Scranton Times and the hundreds and hundreds of people jamming Spruce Street," he said. O'Neill imagined the crowd's roar after they learned he had doubled—"a boyhood dream come true. I knew what that hit meant to my friends and folks back in Minooka."

### FIRST BASE: VIC WERTZ

Despite a fine three-decade career (1947-'63), a lifetime .277 BA, and career totals of 266 homers and 1178 RBI, all anyone remembers about Vic Wertz is the ball he hit and Willie Mays caught—as in perhaps the greatest catch ever made.

It happened in Game One of the 1954 World Series against the New York Giants. It was 2-2 in the eighth and Wertz was in the zone. He was already 3-for-3, with a single, a double, and a two-run triple. With Larry Doby and Al Rosen

aboard, the lefty-swinging Wertz drove a ball to the deepest part of the Polo Grounds in center field. Mays turned his back, raced back, and made his legendary grab—460 feet away. Two innings later, Giants pinch-hitter Dusty Rhodes hit a 260-foot fly ball—which carried over the 257-foot fence for a home run and the win.

Mays' catch all but finished the Tribe, as New York swept the 111-win Indians in four straight games. Wertz was the only regular who enjoyed a good Series at the plate, hitting .500 (8 for 16), and collecting two doubles, a triple, a homer, and 3 RBI. The rest of the Indians hit .149.

After 1954, Wertz kept battling. He overcame a bout with polio in '55, and returned to have great years with the Tribe, hitting 32 homers in 1956, and 28 in 1957, and knocking in over one hundred runs each season.

Wertz died in 1983 at age 58, remembered as the victim of "the catch." He also should be remembered as one of the Tribe's best post-season performers ever.

### SECOND BASE: CARLOS BAERGA

While Hall of Famer Joe Gordon was a better player and Bill Wambsganss' unassisted triple play in the 1920 Fall Classic will live forever (it was the only unassisted triple play ever in a Series game), Baerga makes this team. In their Series appearances for Cleveland, Gordon hit .182 (4 for 22) with a home run and 2 RBI, Wambsganss totaled a .154 BA (4 for 26) with a single RBI, and Baerga hit .192 (5 for 26) with 2 doubles and 4 RBI. Throw in '54 World Series second baseman Bobby Avila's .133 mark (2 for 15) and this is still an

Continued on page 88



CARLOS BAERGA



VIC WERTZ



(4 for 15), with 2 homers and 5 RBI, including a 440-foot blast that won Game Five.

In the 1995 World Series against the Atlanta Braves, Thome went 4 for 19, good for a .211 mark, along with a home run and 2 RBI. His Game Five solo blast was the Indians final run and margin for their 5-4 victory.

So Jim Thome makes the team. The 1920 guys will like that. They dig the way he wears his socks.

### LEFT FIELD: CHARLIE JAMIESON

When Charlie Jamieson was a young boy, his father, a former semi-pro player, wanted his son to play baseball. "Dad was a catcher and third baseman,"

Jamieson said. "Loved baseball. My dad really wanted me to be a ballplayer. Wanted to see me in a World Series game. And in 1920, he did."

Jamieson's father not only saw him play in a Series game, he saw him play well.

Leadoff batter Jamieson hit .333 (5 for 15) for the Series, collecting a double, walking once, and scoring two runs. When he did make an out, Jamieson hit the ball hard.

Writer Fred Lieb noted Jamieson almost decapitated pitcher Leon Cadore in the Indians first win, smoking a line drive that the pitcher caught in self-defense. The "Ball Hawk" also played flawlessly in the field, notching eight putouts and an assist

without making an error.

Jamieson's place on the All-Time Post Season Team is not without an asterisk. In the 1920 Series, player/manager Tris Speaker platooned the lefty-swinging Jamieson with righty-swinging Joe Evans (.308, 4 for 13). However, Jamieson was in the middle of many rallies, and started in three of the five Series games the Indians won.

After the Series, Jamieson won the full-time spot and teamed with Speaker to form one of the greatest defensive outfield pairings in history. He also continued to hit, ending his Major League career with a lifetime .303 BA and 1990 hits. After being released by Cleveland in 1932, Jamieson continued to play, patrolling semi-pro outfields until he was 49.



JIM THOME



CHARLIE JAMIESON



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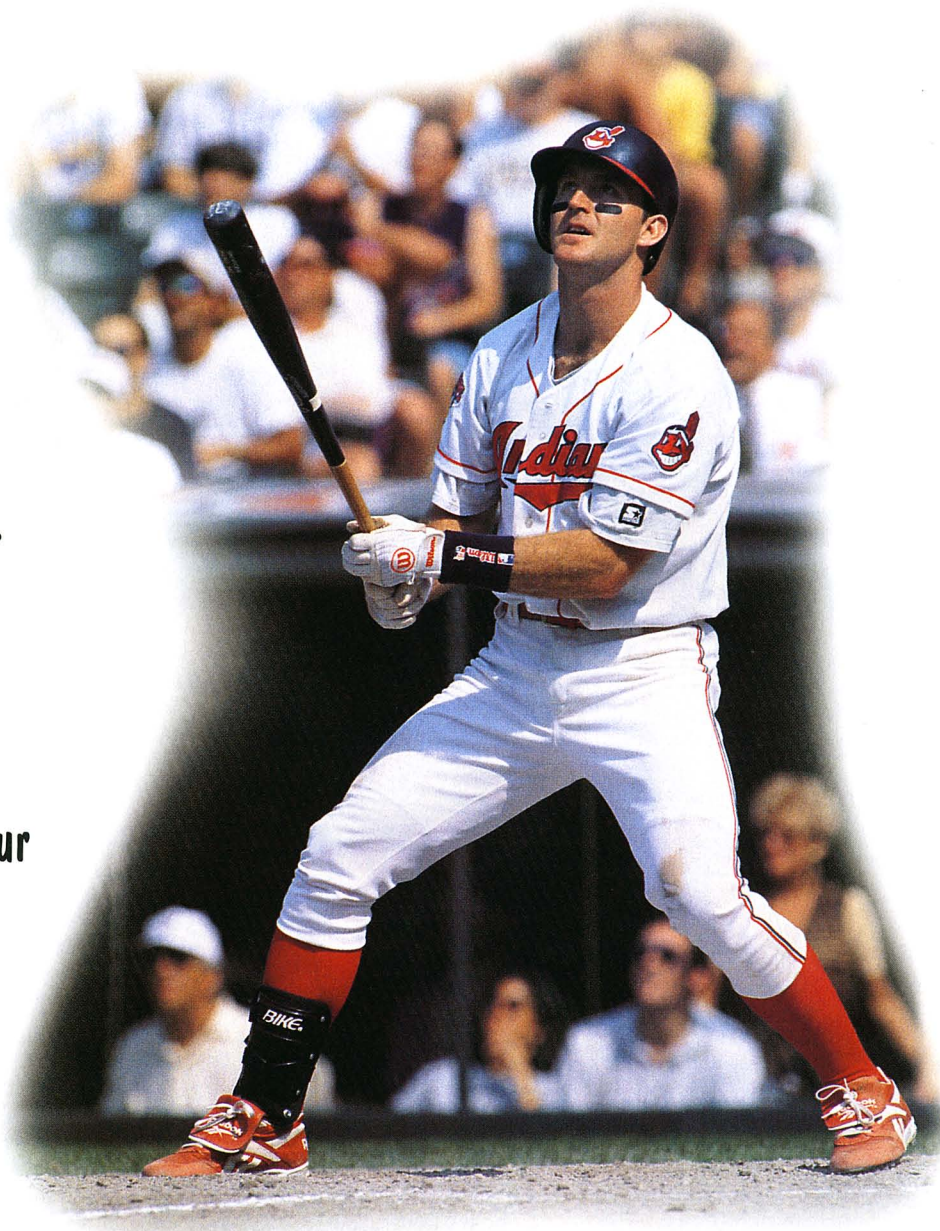


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

Indians Slugger Jim Thome spent three years in the Tribe's Minor League system before he put on an Indians uniform. But you just have to spend a few minutes at the Indians Team Shops, because here, you can get official Tribe jerseys and caps just like the players wear. You can also get T-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets, baseballs, pennants, flags, videos, children's items, and novelties, too.

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**46**  
**Jason**  
**Jacome**

pitcher

**Bats:** L  
**Throws:** L  
**Born:** 11/24/70  
**1996...**  
**Height:** 6'1"  
**Weight:** 185  
**Resides:** Tucson, AZ

- Finished 0-4 with a 4.72 ERA and 1 save in 49 games (2 starts) for the Kansas City Royals (47.2 IP, 67 H, 27 R/25 ER, 22 BB, 32 SO)... Lone save of the season came on September 1 at Detroit... Recorded six holds on the year.
- Was 0-3 with a 2.47 ERA in his 47 relief appearances and 0-1 with a 29.35 ERA in his two starts... Allowed just 1 ER over an 18.2-inning stretch covering 20 appearances from May 13-July 7.
- Allowed just 11 of 35 inherited runners to score on the year... Retired 30 of 47 first batters faced in his relief appearances... Entered a game before the sixth inning just twice all season.

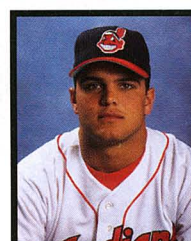


**7**  
**Jeff**  
**Juden**

pitcher

**Bats:** R  
**Throws:** R  
**Born:** 1/19/71  
**1996/'97...**  
**Height:** 6'8"  
**Weight:** 265  
**Resides:** Salem, MA

- Acquired from Montreal Expos on July 31... Compiled a record of 11-5 with a 4.22 ERA in 22 starts for the Expos in '97... Tossed 3 CG and had two 10+ strikeout outings... Made Tribe debut on August 5 at DET (ND, 3.2 IP, 5 H, 3 R/ER).
- Won first 5 decisions in '97 (4/2-5/24), extending his career-high win streak to 10 games... Went 5-0 with a 3.27 ERA in 58 relief appearances with the Expos and Giants in '96... Struck out a career-best 14 batters over 8.1 IP at TOR, July 1, outdueling Roger Clemens in the 2-1 Montreal win.
- Owns a career record of 19-16 w/a 4.29 ERA in 106 ML games... Houston's 1st pick (12th overall) in the 1989 draft.



**27**  
**Jaret**  
**Wright**

pitcher

**Bats:** R  
**Throws:** R  
**Born:** 12/29/75  
**1996/'97...**  
**Height:** 6'2"  
**Weight:** 230  
**Resides:** Anaheim, CA

- Made his Major League debut on June 24, 1997 vs. Minnesota... Got the win in the Tribe's 10-5 victory... His father, Clyde, also made his debut vs. Minnesota.
- Went 4-1 with a 1.80 ERA in seven '97 starts at Buffalo (45.0 IP, 30 H, 16 R/9 ER, 19 BB, 47 SO) before his call to the big leagues... AAA batters were hitting .185 (30-162) off him in '97.
- At Class A Kinston in '96, Jaret went 7-4 w/a 2.50 ERA in 19 GS... Suffered a broken jaw at the 1996 Class A All-Star Game when he was hit by a bat swung by Durham's Ron Wright... Tribe's first round selection in the '94 June Draft (#10 overall).



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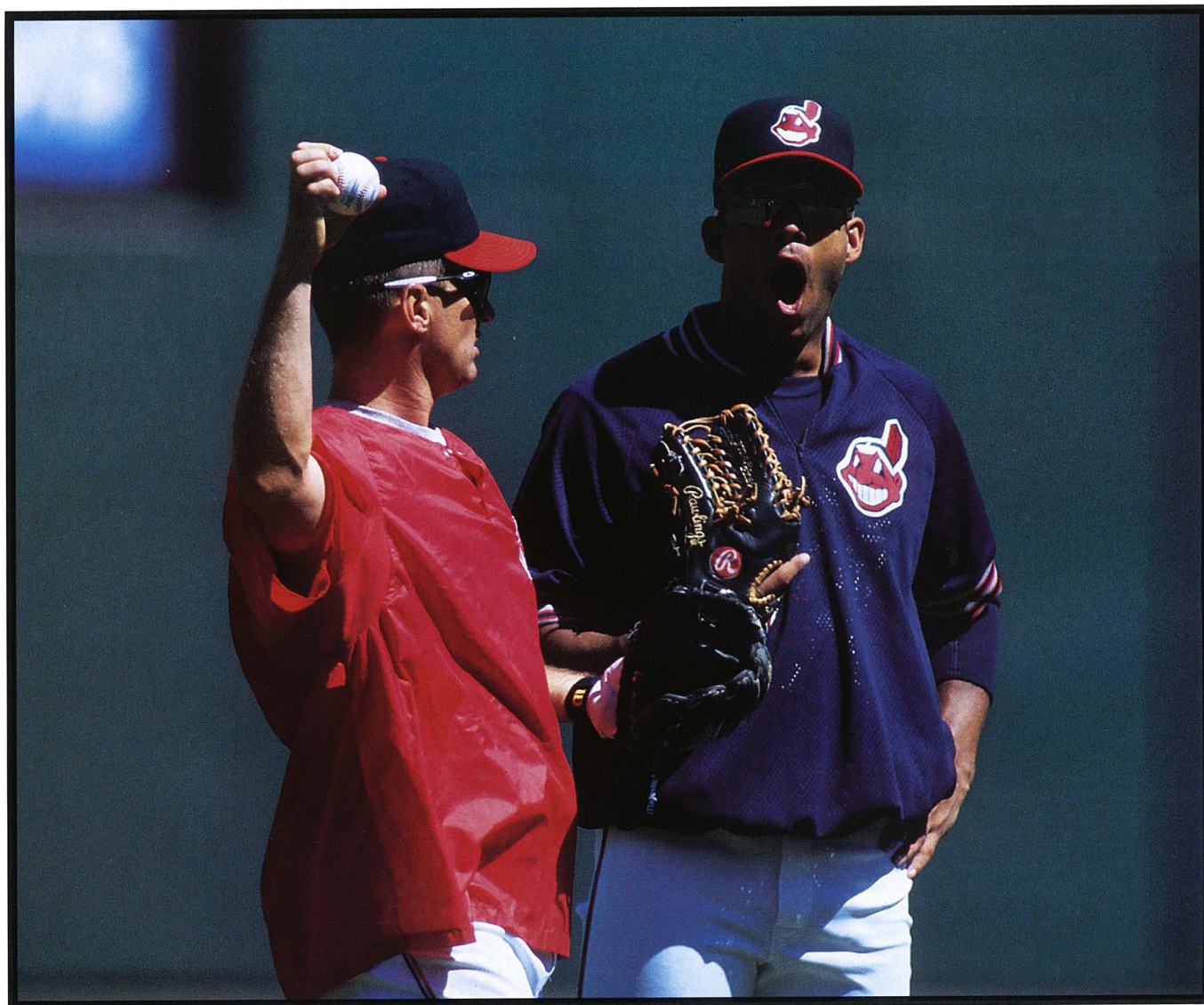


Photo credit: Gregory Drezdzon

**OPEN MOUTH, INSERT BALL... ?!?**